

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Love in action boosts spiritual growth in Croatia

ZAGREB, Croatia (BP) — During four years of bloody war in the former Yugoslavia, Southern Baptists have quietly sent almost \$3 million worth of food, cooking supplies, and other help to victims on all sides.

Those four years of love in action are

now boosting church planting across Croatia.

People throughout the region have come to see Baptists as a people who care, people with a message that just might be worth hearing.

Soon after the war broke out, Croatian

Baptists set up aid organizations to channel food and aid from Southern Baptists and other Christian and humanitarian organizations. As they handed out food parcels, they also distributed thousands of Bibles, tracts, and other Christian literature. And they have preached on television and radio.

This past winter, Baptists helped keep hundreds of thousands of refugees alive with ongoing food distribution. For example, Baptists shipped more than two dozen truckloads of food into the Tuzla area of Bosnia within weeks after the road between Zagreb and Tuzla was reopened.

In February, women trekked through snow to Karlovac Baptist Church to pick up parcels of food, cooking oil, and other basic supplies to help get them through the winter. Some pulled the food back home on sleds. Scenes like this have been repeated in towns across Croatia in recent years.

Many refugees are trying to start life over with few possessions in houses which are little more than empty shells. "Those people will need longer-term help than those who stayed in their homes," said Ivan Vacek, coordinator for Duhovna Stvarnost (Spiritual Reality), one of the two main Baptist humanitarian relief agencies in Croatia.

Unfortunately, the amount of aid coming into Croatia now is decreasing, Vacek said, although many here will need help for months or years to come.

But Baptists say their four years of labor under fire have helped create a new day in evangelism and church planting.

"We are quite enthusiastic. Our churches are growing and we have some great new projects on the way," said Branko Lovrec, president of the Croatian Baptist Union, which now claims 33 churches and about 2,800 members.

Lovrec pointed to growth points across the country. Twenty-five people have been meeting for Bible studies in Split, a major coastal city, and are looking for a building in which to start a church. In Karlovac, a key city between Zagreb and the coastal city

of Rijeka, two churches have doubled their membership in recent years, and one new work in nearby Plaski has grown to more than 70 members since it started late last year.

Zagreb Baptist Church in the capital city is expanding its sanctuary to better accommodate overflow crowds at two Sunday morning services. A Baptist church in Petrinja, Croatia, reopened in December and 20 people attend.

Croatian Baptists also are starting churches in Bosnia — in Tuzla, for example, the city where U.S. troops have established a presence.

In Sarajevo, Bosnia's capital, Teufik Cerovic, a former Muslim, has restarted a Baptist church which closed during the war. The Foreign Mission Board contributed about \$150,000 toward the purchase of this building. It opened in January 1992, just three months before the war broke out in Bosnia.

To help with evangelistic efforts, Southern Baptists have sent five new missionaries to join Nela Williams, a veteran foreign missionary who has served many years in Zagreb. She has been active in Bible translating and earlier taught in the Baptist seminary that wound up on the Serbian side of the border after Yugoslavia broke apart. In recent years she has focused on equipping Croatian Baptists to teach in their churches and has worked with Zagreb Baptist Church as a teacher.

The Foreign Mission Board also provided \$14,000 to Croatian Baptists to help them produce their news/evangelism magazine, which is widely distributed. Devotional materials published by Croatian Baptists will be sent into Serbia and Macedonia, possible now because postal service has been re-established between the countries.

Southern Baptists in Indiana also will help Croatian Baptists between this spring and the fall of 1998 through a partnership agreement.

"This partnership will be very positive," said Branko Lovrec.



RELIEF — Baptist pastor Ladislav Ruzicka and his wife Melany hand out food parcels in front of Karlovac Baptist Church. Many who received parcels tramped through snow to get to the church. Ruzicka has directed one of the four major Baptist food distribution efforts during the war in the former Yugoslavia. That work, coupled with active evangelistic programs by the four churches he pastors, has helped his churches grow. Recently a Karlovac newspaper survey said he was one of the city's best-known and most-admired people, the first time a Protestant pastor has been so named. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

What's the deal?

Mathematics expert Frederick Lembeck doesn't have an explanation for why his calculations for winning at casino table games work consistently and repeatedly — except at casinos. Lembeck, author of *Beat the House* (Carol Publishing), a collection of mathematical gambling systems, can only say "it's a mystery" that his computations don't seem to work in casinos. He describes his systems as scaled-down versions of Wall Street investment techniques. "You begin by recognizing that a craps table or roulette wheel is only superficially a game of chance. On a deeper level, it's a toy stock exchange. The only difference is that instead of price changes responding to something the President or the Federal Reserve did, they respond to what the dice or the wheel did," he explained. So how is it that the calculations work at home and on the stock market, but not in casinos? "As I say, it's a mystery. Besides, you never know, there may turn out to be a legitimate explanation for it."

Servant Christians

"Do you ever pray, 'Lord I want to be just like your Son,'? We try to eliminate that from mission service. We don't want to hurt, and we don't want to serve. Many of us want to be a servant but be treated like a king." So said Henry Blackaby, director of spiritual awakening at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta and author of *Experiencing God*. Blackaby, on a tour of South America that also included Paraguay and Argentina, urged the missionaries not to neglect their personal growth and Bible study. He also cautioned them to be flexible and open to the Holy Spirit, pointing out that God directed David to change his strategy the second time he battled the Philistines. Jesus did not limit himself to one method of healing afflicted people, sometimes touching them and sometimes only speaking to them — even using saliva and mud to heal a blind man, Blackaby said. "God rarely does the same thing twice because he doesn't want us to put confidence in the method," he explained.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Crestwood Cottage is dedicated at the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village in honor of the disbanded Jackson congregation that served as the Village's home church for 41 years and donated all its remaining funds to the Village after closing.

20 years ago

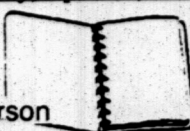
Former Miss America Anita Bryant, a Southern Baptist and outspoken critic of lax morality in America, performs at William Carey College in Hattiesburg and is awarded an honorary doctor of humane letters degree by the school.

50 years ago

Mississippi Baptist Hospital in Jackson purchases a new 400,000-volt deep therapy X-ray machine — the only one south of the Ohio River — and retains a staff roentgenologist to provide treatments not yet available across most of the country.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



Eating and drinking with sinners

How easy it is to find your foot in a trap designed for others. Especially is this true among zealous religious rules and regulations, as Haman of old could testify. Consider your own neck when you fashion a noose.

One example is seen in the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) attempt to describe a "cooperating with the Convention" church. The statement reads: "Among churches not in cooperation with the convention are churches which act to affirm, approve, or endorse homosexual behavior."

It is only right that we have convictions opposing homosexuality, but is it something we want to specify in the constitution? A voodoo-practicing church, offering animal sacrifice, could qualify for cooperation under this statement, so perhaps we should mention voodoo.

What about churches favoring adultery or pre-marital sex? We had best add those to the constitution, too — not to mention abortion, euthanasia, gambling, the liquor industry, and sins numbering seven times seven. It is good

that we oppose these things but our convention's constitution is hardly the place to mention them.

Another glowing example of putting our necks in the noose is the flap going on over the SBC's employment of Coopers and Lybrand as "consultants" for the SBC restructuring process. Coopers and Lybrand also performs an auditing function for the Texas lottery. When the lottery winners (never the losers) are announced, the name "Coopers and Lybrand" appears on the TV screen.

It is not likely that the SBC officials were aware of this gambling connection prior to signing the \$495,000 contract with Coopers and Lybrand. Assuredly the SBC leaders do not endorse gambling in any fashion.

Several years ago it was the Annuity Board on the market hot seat. It had invested money in giant corporations which just happened to connect with liquor subsidies, or medical companies which distributed instruments used to perform abortions, etc.

The SBC Executive Committee called the Annuity Board to task and demanded they divest these

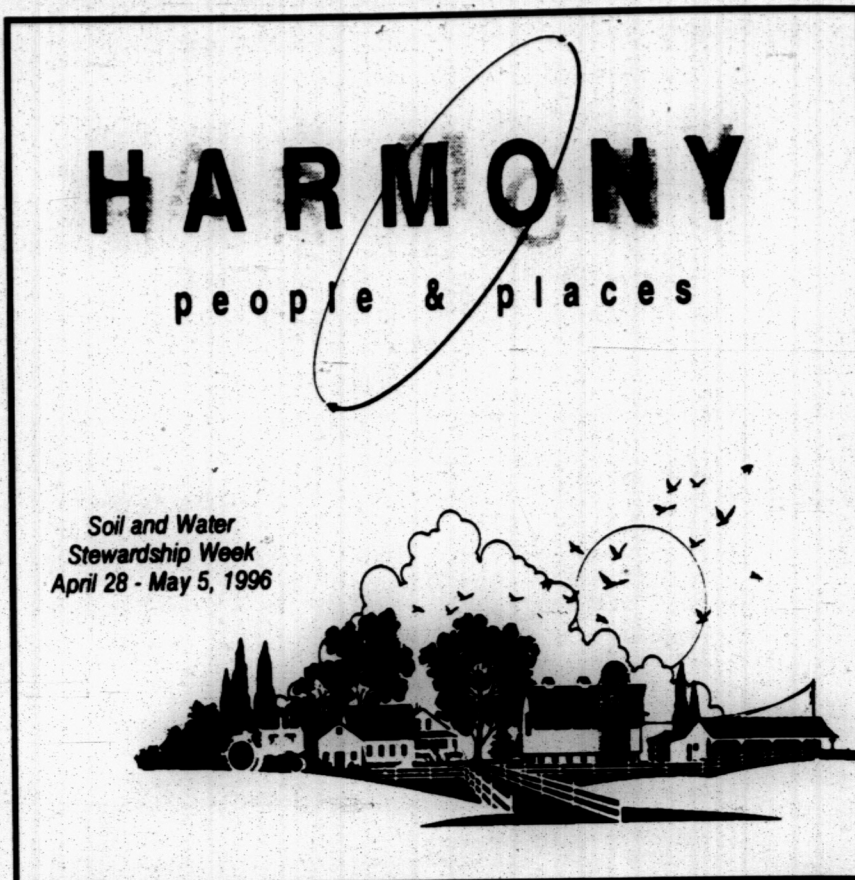
stocks. Long speeches were made at the SBC's annual meeting about this sinful fly in the religious ointment. The Annuity Board did its best to comply with the demands.

Where are those voices today? Will the Executive Committee, meeting June 8 in New Orleans, hear any stinging rebukes and demands to break the contract with Coopers and Lybrand?

In an age of giant conglomerates it is difficult to know the ramifications of every subsidiary. You can buy cookies from a company which owns a brewery or drink soft drinks from a company which buys their cans from a company which makes beer cans. These business tentacles are endless.

As the SBC officials stated, "practicing 'being in the world and not of the world' is often a precarious journey as our contract with Coopers and Lybrand demonstrates."

The SBC does not approve of gambling. We have hired a competent consulting firm and the contract cannot be broken. Perhaps with a bit more understanding, let's move on.



THE FRAGMENTS



Dorcas ministry today

Since 1963 the Baptist Men (Brotherhood) in Mississippi have sought to furnish new suits for pastors in pioneer mission areas. Pastors in Montana, North and South Dakota, Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, Alaska, Iowa, and Minnesota/Wisconsin have appreciated this ministry of the needle and threads.

A grand total of 3,644 suits at a cost of almost one half million dollars have been distributed. It would cause some button-popping pride to read some of the letters from the suits' recipients:

• A Wisconsin missionary writes, "for at least one of the pastors this is his first new suit ever."

• "I have been in Iowa as pastor for 21 years and have never seen anything for the pastors that would come close to what you have done."

• From Alaska, "This is the only way some of us could get a new suit and I can never tell you how thankful I am."

• "The thoughtfulness and investment of Mississippi Baptist Men is greatly appreciated" (Iowa).

• "It is my first new suit since 1977. Just a lot of love" (Minnesota).

• "The people of both my churches were impressed that you would remember their pastor in this way. Acts such as this greatly strengthens our churches" (Wisconsin).

Paul Harrell, Jim Didlake, and the Baptist Men of Mississippi are to be commended for this ministry. As one pastor said, "How can I praise God enough for such bounty and generosity."

— GH

lots of work.

— Disciples folk to center their personal lives in the virtues and practices of love, faithfulness, and justice (Matt. 23:23).

We must walk the walk.

— While the righteous will be blessed and the wicked punished within the frame of this world, the perfected implementation of reward and punishment awaits the full coming of the kingdom beyond time (Matt. 16:13-18).

We all struggle with the problems of evil and the lack of justice. What happens in this world often seems to fall far short of the right. But resurrection and justice are coming. We must never forget this.

— Acts in a missional fashion by carrying out the commands of the "Great Commission" (Matt. 28:16-20).

The kingdom grows as the churches share the good news.

Each one of these 13 habits is important. Each must be cherished, developed, and practiced. Sometimes, a church will focus on a few and neglect the others. While there may be occasions when one or more should be emphasized because of the needs of the context, we must be careful not to neglect any of the habits.

Farley is national program director, town and country missions, SBC Home Mission Board.

Guest opinion...

13 habits of highly effective churches

By Gary Farley

Recently, I have been studying Matthew's Gospel. It has been very helpful to me to consider what Jesus declares to be the basic characteristics of Christians, individually, and of the churches to which they belong. The following list of habits seems to be a good summary of what Matthew quotes Jesus as saying about what makes an effective church.

An effective church:

- Announces the reality of God's kingdom (Matt. 4:5; 11:4-6).

In that day Jesus spoke to common people who lived in a world filled with spiritual beings who might help or hurt a person. This was their perception. They were pre-modern folk. How do today's churches make this announcement to people dwelling in modern and/or post-modern worlds?

- Uses the power of the kingdom to address needs of persons (Matt. 4:5; 8:23-34).

Again, today we must consider how this is to be done among pre-modern, modern, and post-modern folk.

- Builds upon, but is not bound by, tradition (Matt. 5:17).

Today's churches need to learn

how to respond to the new without "throwing out the baby with the bath wash."

- Moves believers from the common culture concerns for status, position, power, and "face-saving" to deep servanthood (Matt. 4:21-26).

Jesus addressed a culture that was very concerned about making, keeping, and saving face. Feuding, fussing, and fighting were common. They still are in most aspects of our culture(s).

- Teaches people to pray, praise, give, fast, and serve (Matt. 6:1-8; 11:38-39; 11:26-30).

These were and are the basic forms of worship.

- Sends messengers to other peoples who have not heard and/or understood (Matt. 10:1-23).

The kingdom needs to be announced by kingdom people with power in places of receptivity.

- Declares that God wills to be worshipped and obeyed by transformed (born-again) persons who live and work in a just social order (Matt. 12:15-21).

The social order is still far from just. Believers tend to have

some rough edges even after their transformation. We need to work a lot harder on both scores.

- Understands the kingdom of God is full of lots of surprises, so the church must "hang loose" (Matt. 13:1-58).

In each age the church is tempted to become culture bound, confusing the temporal with the eternal. We work, plan, and pray, expecting certain results to come, but our efforts have many serendipities.

- Finds the foundation of the church in the confession by Peter that "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:13-18).

The centrality of the divine-human Christ for the life of the church is crucial.

- Deals with problems among/between members of the church by demanding accountability, encouraging mediation, actively listening, and as a last result excluding from the body (Matt. 18:15-20).

The church needs to be in fellowship and pure. Yet it must also be redemptive. Often it has been either too harsh or too soft. Finding the balance calls for

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Justice Scalia urges law students to have courage

By William H. Perkins Jr.

U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonin Scalia on April 9 exhorted members of the Mississippi College (MC) School of Law's Christian Legal Society to stand firm when criticized for their faith by the "worldly wise."

Scalia, known for his impassioned, conservative opinions on issues brought before the nation's highest court, entitled his speech, "Not To the Wise: The Christian as Cretin."

He told more than 650 attorneys, law professors, and students attending the prayer breakfast at First Church, Jackson, that the academic and professional circles in which they travel often consider Christians "... well, simple-minded."

Referring to 1 Corinthians 1:18-19 and other New Testament passages, Scalia explained, "Paul assumed the wise of the world would consider Christians fools. The worldly wise just will not have anything to do with miracles."

He continued, "One can believe and still be sophisticated. My hope is to impart to these who are here the courage to have their wisdom taken for stupidity, to have the courage to endure the contempt of the sophisticated world for these 'failings.'"

The 60-year-old jurist pointed to Sir Thomas More as an example of how the world views people of faith who take a stand for what they believe.

More, a British author and lord chancellor of England, was beheaded in 1535 after refusing to go along with King Henry VIII's plan to divorce Catherine of Aragon by breaking with the Roman Catholic Church and declaring himself head of a new independent church in England.

"The reason he died was, to almost everyone at the time, a foolish one," he said.

Scalia also quoted Thomas Jefferson's 1804 rewrite of the life of Christ, commonly known as the Jefferson Bible.

"The Jefferson Bible ends with Christ in the tomb. The wise do not believe in the resurrection and ascension of Christ," he said.

Citing contemporary legal standards, Scalia indicated there is ample evidence to indicate that Christ was indeed resurrected and ascended.

"It is not irrational to accept the testimony of eyewitnesses who had nothing to gain. It must have been part of their clever plan to get crucified," said Scalia, who received his law degree from Harvard University in 1960.

After the prayer breakfast adjourned, Scalia mingled with attendees and spent an extended period of time autographing programs and having his photograph taken with the students.

The MC School of Law, in downtown Jackson, is part of the Baptist-affiliated MC system based in Clinton.

Scalia was invited by the school's Christian Legal Society to participate in the annual Law Week observance at the school. He also spoke at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg later in the afternoon.

Portions of Scalia's trip to the

state were coordinated by the office of U.S. District Judge Charles Pickering of Laurel, a former two-term president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

MC President Howell W. Todd said, "Mississippi College is honored to host Judge Scalia as part of the ongoing effort to bring the very best legal education to our students. We are privileged to have the opportunity for Mississippi College students, faculty, and staff to benefit from his insight."

J. Richard Hurt, MC School of Law dean, said, "The students deserve a lot of credit for their hard work in putting together this exciting event. Interest in the Justice's visit has been tremendous. Tickets for the breakfast sold out."

Law Week at the school ended April 12 with the Law Day Banquet at Primos Northgate Restaurant in Jackson. Former trial lawyer Rikki J. Kleiman of Boston, anchor for the Courtroom Television Network in New York, was the keynote speaker.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Miss. missionaries among Americans fleeing Liberia

By Marty Croll and William H. Perkins Jr.

MONROVIA, Liberia — Eight of 10 Foreign Mission Board (FMB) missionaries, including three Missisippians, who had been holed up in a compound on the outskirts of war-torn Monrovia joined a high-speed U.S. Embassy convoy to a secured airfield April 11.

Members of the convoy included Felix Jr. and Dene Greer, both of Jackson; and Rachel Dubard of Carrollton.

They spent the night safely at the airfield, planning to evacuate by U.S. military helicopter. Their evacuation will eventually take them to Lome, Togo, where they will stay in a Baptist conference center.

Missionaries loaded their cars and followed embassy security officers along a Monrovia bypass, dodging sniper fire and "sometimes going 90 miles per hour," according to a U.S. Embassy official.

Edward and Fran Laughridge of South Carolina initially chose to stay at the compound but were eventually forced to join the evacuation.

FMB policy leaves the decision of whether to go or stay to the discretion of each missionary.

Other Baptist evacuees included Bradley and Carolyn Brown of Georgia, John T. McPherson of Tennessee; and James and Jane Park of Kentucky.

Southern Baptist missionary Margaret Fairburn of Tylertown spent 28 years in Liberia and four years in the Ivory Coast working with Liberian refugees. She retired in November of 1995, returning to Mississippi.

"There has been no peace in Liberia for the last five years. The country is in chaos," Fairburn said, describing a situation hauntingly similar to the tribal warfare that has devastated the African countries of Somalia, Rwanda, and Burundi in recent years.

A peace treaty was signed in August of last year, Fairburn said, and three of the warring rebel leaders were named vice-presidents in a new government.

Other rebel leaders, angry that they weren't included in the new government, disrupted the fragile peace and plunged the country deeper into civil war and tribal retaliation, she explained.

"There was no point in (the missionaries) staying. There is nothing anyone can do," Fairburn said.

Christianity has a strong foothold in Liberia, where many people practice tribal religions that include witchcraft and homage to other forces of darkness, she pointed out.

There is a large nucleus of Christians inside and outside of the country, Fairburn said, including the 17 churches and three preaching stations she helped start among the refugees in the Ivory Coast.

"They know how to do it. When they have finished (fighting), I believe Baptist work will be purer than ever before," she said.

Fairburn laments crisis in the country where she spent more than three decades, and she is concerned about the apparent apathy of much of the rest of the world.

"It seems Liberia has become a forgotten little country. We need to pray for the people there who are dying every day," she said.

Fancher announces MBCB retirement

James P. Fancher, 67, of Florence has announced his June 30 retirement from the position of consultant for the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

Fancher served as consultant for six years, including four months in 1996 as interim evangelism director while the search was on to replace retiring evangelism director J. Garland McKee of Clinton.

S.A. "Sonny" Adkins, pastor of Forest Church, Forest, was recently selected as the new evangelism director by the MBCB executive committee. He will assume his new duties in May.

Fancher, a native of Weir, came to the Baptist Building in 1990 from First Church, Monticello, where he had served as pastor since 1986.

Other places of service include:

- Pastor of First Church, Coffeeville: 1981-86.
- Vocational evangelist, Jackson: 1971-81.
- Pastor of First Church, Aberdeen: 1966-71.
- Pastor of First Church, Florence: 1959-66.
- Pastor of Bay Springs Church, Bay Springs: 1956-59.
- Pastor of Harpersville Church, Harpersville: 1954-56.

Fancher is a graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton and holds a divinity degree from Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

His wife Wilda is a former staffer for Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union and most recently served as MBCB volunteer prayer ministry coordinator.



U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonin Scalia (left) talks with Vencie Breazeale (center) and her husband Paul (right) of Jackson after his speech April 9 in Jackson to the Christian Legal Society of the Mississippi College School of Law. Scalia's son Matt and the Breazeales' son Jonathan became friends while attending the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y. The Breazeales are members of First Church, Jackson, and Paul serves as a trustee of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



F. Greer



D. Greer



Dubard



Fancher

State executives to advise SBC restructuring panel

(ABP) — Nine state Baptist convention executives have been named to a committee that will serve as "an information resource" for the Implementation Task Force (ITF), which is supervising the massive restructuring of Southern Baptist Convention's agencies and institutions.

The group reportedly will meet with task force members in Dallas May 2.

William Pinson, executive of the General Convention of Texas, was asked by ITF chairman Robert Record to chair the committee and enlist the other members. They are: **Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Carlisle Drig-**

Castlewoods marks 15th

Castlewoods Church, Brandon will celebrate its 15th anniversary on April 21 at 10:30 a.m. A potluck lunch will follow the service. Bill Causey, executive secretary-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will be the keynote speaker. The property was purchased in 1975 for \$65,000 by the Board and Rankin Association. A mission, started in 1977, was constituted as Castlewoods Church in April of 1981. Larry McDonald is pastor.

gers, South Carolina; Wendell Jones, Iowa; Rex Lindsay, Kansas-Nebraska; Ken Lyle, New England; John Sullivan, Florida; William Tinsley, Minnesota-Wisconsin, and Fermin Whittaker, California.

The restructuring, which includes a reduction in the number of SBC agencies from 19 to 12, was approved by messengers to the SBC annual meeting last June.

Record asked the state executives to become a "resource pool" for the task force, particularly as its work relates to state conventions.

"They will help us see these issues more clearly from a state convention perspective," said Record, pastor of First Church, Norfolk, Va., and a member of the SBC Executive Committee.

One of those issues involves the "cooperative agreements," which are negotiated between each state convention and the Home Mission Board and which define the role each plays in missions work in the state.

MC's Danny Rutland to assume new duties as advancement V.P.

Danny Rutland of Clinton, executive director of development at Mississippi College (MC), has been named vice-president for institutional advancement at the Baptist-affiliated school in Clinton.

Rutland, 42, will begin his new duties on June 1. He succeeds Rory Lee, who announced Feb. 23 that he was leaving Mississippi College to become president and chief operating officer of William Carey College, another Baptist-affiliated institution based in Hattiesburg.

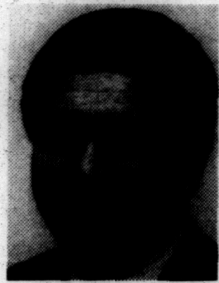
MC president Howell W. Todd said, "Danny Rutland has a wealth of experience in fundraising, and we are fortunate to have him as a member of the MC team. He is a consummate professional and he understands the deep roots of

Mississippi College among its alumni and throughout Mississippi's Baptist churches."

Rutland has served other Baptist agencies and institutions, including Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson as director of development and trust executive vice-president; and Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., as

regional development director. He is a graduate of MC and holds a graduate degree from New Orleans Seminary.

"Mississippi College touches so many lives, not only in Mississippi, but throughout the world. An effective development program is vital... and I am excited about the prospects for [the] future," Rutland said.



Rutland

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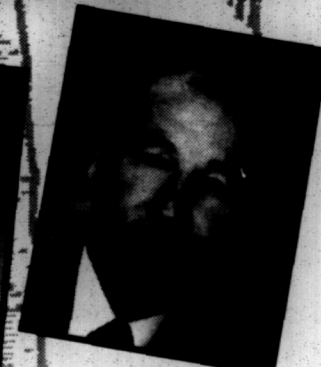
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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 18, 1996

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.



July 15-19

William Carey College, Hattiesburg

Super Summer '96 with Matt Brinkley

Guidelines for all SS candidates

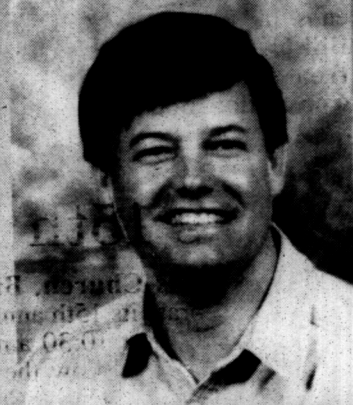
1. Demonstrates leadership qualities and is a growing Christian.
2. Faithful involvement in Worship, Sunday School, and Wednesday night youth activities.
3. Complete at least one level of a discipleship study (i.e. Survival Kit, DiscipleYouth, DiscipleNow...).
4. Memorized a minimum of 10 scripture verses relating to discipleship, evangelism, or a disciple study.
5. Share their personal testimony with the youth group.
6. Share the Gospel with at least one person this year.
7. Completed at least the 8th grade in 1996, but not yet in college.
8. Agree to attend all SS sessions.

Request For Registration Packet

Registration begins April 15 and ends June 15 - All applications received after June 15 will be subject to a \$25 late fee. Applications received after July 1, may be refused. Space is limited.

For more information, contact the Discipleship & Family Ministry Dept. of the MBCB at 968-3800 in Jackson or 1-800-748-1651.

Matt Brinkley



Michael Passons



May 31-June 4

Camp Pastor: James Lewis, Pastor
FBC, New Albany
Camp Musician: Michael Passons
Franklin, Tenn.

June 4-8

Camp Pastor: Ken Hester, Pastor
Mantee Baptist Church
Camp Musician: Michael Passons

June 8-12

Camp Pastor: Alan Permenter, Youth Minister
St. Andrew Baptist Church
Panama City
Camp Musician: Michael Passons

June 13-17

Camp Pastor: Jason Bird, Pastor
15th Avenue Baptist Church
Meridian
Camp Musician: Michael Passons



June 21-25

Camp Pastor: Gary Permenter, Youth Minister
Mt. Vernon Baptist Church,
Columbus
Camp Musician: Kevin Williams
Birmingham

June 21-25

Camp Pastor: Jim Cain, Youth Minister
Monticello Baptist Church
Camp Musician: Kevin Williams

Cost: \$124 per person.

Camp Curriculum: Centrifuge 1996 curriculum prepared by the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Registration: Begins on March 1, 1996. This should be sent to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571. For registration information call 601-452-7261.

Information: For program information call Sean Keith or Jim Didlake at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson 968-3800.

SIGN UP TODAY because space is limited!!!

Let's pray this day for...

April 19-May 2, 1996

Prayer Ministry Office • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

"Let us concentrate on God's holiness and ask Him to reveal our conscious and unconscious sins. When we confess our sins we will be compatible with Him as we pray."

J.W. Hunt

State Bible Drills: FBC, Tupelo; Harrisburg BC, Tupelo; FBC, Starkville; Calvary BC, Starkville—3:00-4:30 p.m.

State Bible Drills: FBC, Clinton; Woodland Hills BC, Jackson—1:30-3:00 p.m.

Cooperative Program Day (Stewardship Emphasis)

State Bible Drills: FBC, Hattiesburg; FBC, Meridian 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Dottie Williamson, missionary to multi-housing ministries on the Gulf Coast

Helen Johnson in the North Delta Association's ministry through their crisis pregnancy center and the girls and women they are reaching

African American Fellowship; Baptist Building—10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

26-27—Father/Daughter Overnight, Camp Garaywa—5:00 p.m., 26th-2:00 p.m., 27th, sponsored by the WMU

State Speakers Tournament/Selection Tournament—Alta Woods BC, Jackson, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Life Commitment Sunday in the churches. Pray for revival services at Alta Woods Church, April 28-May 1

Kay Bennett of the Brantley Center, New Orleans, as they reach out to the homeless and alcoholics

Charles Jones, director of Parchman prison ministries for Miss. Baptists' ministry to inmates and staff of the prison

The True Love Waits campaign that challenges youth to see their sexuality through God's eyes

National Day of Prayer—Coordinated by Dr. Robert Bakke. Nationally Broadcast Concert of Prayer—8:00-11:00 p.m. EDT Radio and TV simulcast



JUNE

The numbers indicate the day of the month and the year of birth.
For instance, 6-76 means June 6, 1976.

3-86 Mr. Joel T. Martin, Casilla 2568, Santa Cruz, BOLIVIA; Parents: Tom & Cynthia H.; General Evangelism

3-86 Miss Lauren E. McCall, P.O. Box 5864, Tanga, TANZANIA; Parents: Dennis F. & Margaret; Agriculture

13-84 Mr. Rob Dent, International Board, 190 Middle Road, #18-01 Fortune Centre, SINGAPORE; Parents: Donald T. & Anne M.; Associate to the Area Coordinator

15-79 Mr. Jason D. Hendricks, Apartado 1010-7050, Cartago, COSTA RICA; Parents: Larry D. & Mary W.; General Evangelism

18-83 Mr. Ross E. Kyzar, Apartado 4035-1000, San Jose, COSTA RICA; Parents: J. Russell & Melinda H.; Literature & Distribution/Promo.

20-81 Miss Donnis E. Green, Bolanos 141, 1407 Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA; Parents: Algie L., Jr. & Emily G.; General Evangelism

23-77 Mr. D. Michael Panter, William Carey Campus, Box 554, 498 Tuscan Avenue, Hattiesburg, MS 39401; Parents: Danny M. & Elizabeth W.; Associate to the Area Coordinator, SERVE IN EASTERN EUROPE

25-74 Mr. Jeremy Cox, Mississippi College, P.O. Box 4497, Clinton, MS 39058; Parents: J. Larry & Cheryl, Associate to the Area Director, GERMANY

26-89 Mr. Wray Braswell, Rua Barbosa da Cunha 138, 13.073-320 Campinas, SP, BRAZIL; Parents: Larry & Alicia; General Evangelism

28-82 Miss Allison J. Cox, Platterstr. 174E, D-65193 Wiesbaden, GERMANY; Parents: J. Larry & Cheryl L.; Associate to the Area Director

28-89 Miss Charissa L. Fortenberry, P.O. Box 228, Lobatse, BOTSWANA; Parents: Robert N. & Margaret

30-82 Mr. Kyle P. Martin, Casilla 2568, Santa Cruz, BOLIVIA; Parents: Tom & Cynthia H.; General Evangelism

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Mississippi Royal Ambassadors and Challengers



LAD & DAD WEEKEND CAMP

for campers in grades 1-3 and their dads

June 28-29 July 12-13

Total Cost:

\$24 per camper and
\$48 for a lad and dad

R.A. & CHALLENGERS RESIDENT CAMP

for campers in grades 4-12

June 24-28 July 22-26

July 8-12 July 29-August 2

July 15-19

Total Cost: \$90 per camper, includes:
registration fee,
crafts fee,
snack fee,
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insurance

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(601) 289-9730

1996 FAMILY LEADERSHIP CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER 1

Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville
(Humorist: Johnny Flynt, Oxford)

NOVEMBER 2

First Baptist Church,
Brookhaven
(Comedians: Cross Country, Petal)

Bobby Shous

Senior Adult Consultant for Missouri

Ron Mumbower

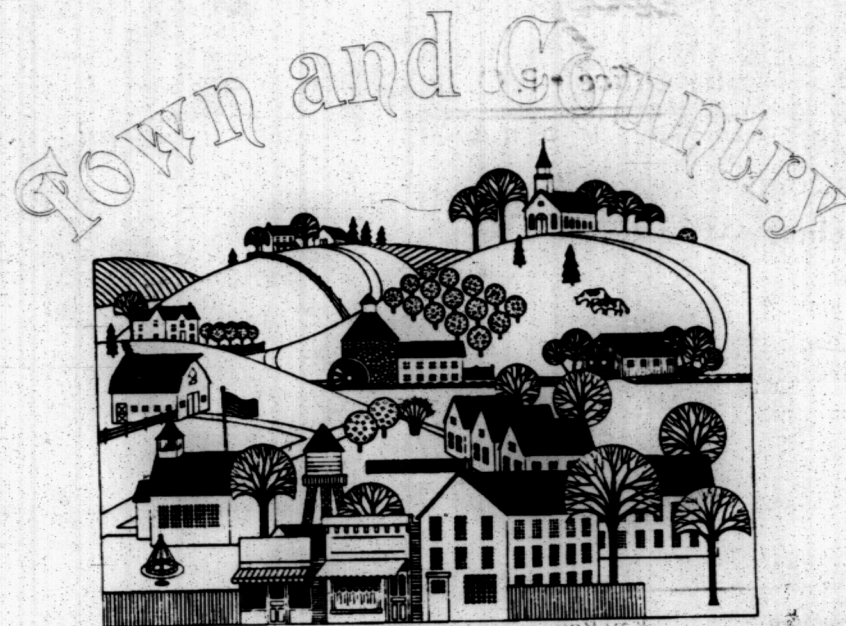
Minister of Counseling, First Baptist Church, Jackson

Tim Cleary

Singles Specialist, Nashville

8:30 a.m. Registration
9:00 Rally
10:00 Conferences
12:30 p.m. Adjourn (Lunch on your own)

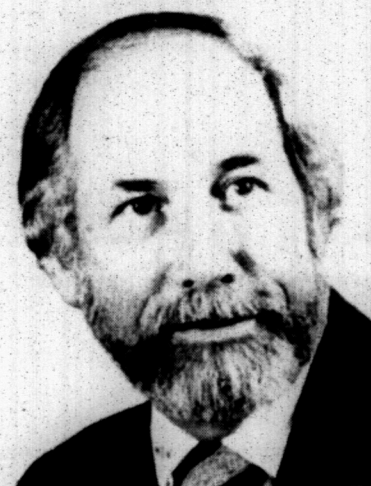
If you would like more information about these conferences, contact the Discipleship & Family Ministry Dept. of the MBCB at 968-3800 in Jackson or 1-800-748-1651.



CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCES

Designed for all church music leadership but especially for those from churches with less than 150 in Sunday School.

—Choose the location nearest you—



Elmo Mercer

Noted composer and arranger
Nashville, Tenn.

Area 5

Center Terrace Baptist Church
Canton
Thursday, July 25, 6:30 - 9 p.m.
Friday, July 26, 9 a.m. - noon

Grace Baptist Church
Vicksburg
Friday, July 26, 6:30 - 9 p.m.
Saturday, July 27, 9 a.m. - noon

Area 2

Holly Baptist Church
Corinth
Thursday, Aug. 1,
6:00-9:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church
Guntown
Friday, Aug. 2, 6:30 - 9 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 3, 9 a.m. - noon

Area 6

Sunrise Baptist Church
Carthage
Thursday, Aug. 8,
6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 9, 9 a.m. - noon

Louin Baptist Church
Louin
Friday, Aug. 9, 6:30 - 9 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 10, 9 a.m. - noon

For more information about the Church Music Conferences, contact the Church Music Dept. of the MBCB at 968-3800 in Jackson or 1-800-748-1651.

WOMEN ON MISSION OLYMPICS

Attention: Senior Women! 50 & Older
May 30, 1996
Camp Garaywa
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
\$7.50 per person

fee covers lunch, limited insurance, missionary speaker, competitive olympic games, athletic activities, individual and group achievement, and fellowship with other Christian seniors.

Deadline: Monday, May 27, 1996

Please return this form to
WMU - Senior Olympics
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205

CHECK THE ACTIVITY YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Jump | <input type="checkbox"/> Softball Throw | <input type="checkbox"/> Long Jump |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yo-yo Contest | <input type="checkbox"/> Horeshoes | <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball Throw |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archery | <input type="checkbox"/> Marathon | <input type="checkbox"/> 50-yard Dash |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swim/Race | <input type="checkbox"/> Style Swim | <input type="checkbox"/> Badminton |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis (singles) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis (Doubles) | <input type="checkbox"/> Shuffleboard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Darts | <input type="checkbox"/> Ping Pong (Singles) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ping Pong (Doubles) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Speed Walk | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-Legged Race | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow-water Run |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kick The Can | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (daytime) _____

Church _____ Association _____

Church Phone _____



Celebrating the Family

(30 Year Anniversary)

July 1-5, 1996

GULFSHORE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY

Celoria Family in Family Worship

Family Conferences:

- Couples
- Single Parenting
- Youth (Mini-Centrifuge)
- Children "TeamKid"
- Preschool "TeamKid"
- Featuring one hour conference on *PromiseKeepers* and *Woman at Heart*

Family Ministries:

- Family Morning Watch
- Family Perceptive (Adventure Recreation)
- Family Olympics
- Giant Cookout - July 4th
- Free Day for the Family (Wednesday)

Note: Pastors or staff who bring three families will get one adult's expenses paid!!!
If you would like to register for this conference, contact the Discipleship & Family Ministry Dept. at 968-3800 in Jackson or 1-800-748-1651.

"BUSTING LOOSE" 30 Years' Ministry To Single Adults

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
May 25-27, 1996

"BUSTING LOOSE"

CONFERENCES INCLUDE:

- Bible Study • Single Parenting • Singles in Missions • Building a Healthy Self-esteem
- Breaking the Hurting Cycle • How to Laugh at Myself • Forgiveness: Asking and Giving
- Ministry Thru Crafts • How to Work: Business Ethics

"BUSTING LOOSE"

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Swamp Tour • Canoe Trip • Adventure Hike
- Ship Island • Jet Skiing • New Orleans Trip
- Beach Activities • Pass Christian Tour

Registration Form

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Church _____
Room and Meals _____ "A" Unit \$85.90
(per person, 2 in a room)
Room and Meals _____ "C" Unit \$79.80
(per person, 3 or more)
Return this form or any request for Gulfshore information to:
Frank Simmons, Manager, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly,
100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571-3299.
Telephone: (601) 452-7263
For more information contact Glenn Shows at 1-800-748-1651.

A Conference for:
Pastors • All Church Staff • Sunday School Directors • Sunday School Leaders

2000 BEYOND BEYOND

Alta Woods BC, Jackson
May 3-4, 1996

For more information about attending this conference, contact the Sunday School Dept. of the MBCB at 968-3800 in Jackson or 1-800-748-1651.

BENEFITS

- Begin to focus beyond 2000 for future planning and growth
- Interpret demographics profile of your church field
- Learn innovative approaches used by cutting-edge churches
- Strengthen the role of Sunday School for future growth
- Dialogue and fellowship with peers and strategic planners

Mississippi Baptist STATE SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

This year for the first time we will have a Men's overall state championship in addition to our Class A and Class AA championships. We are excited about this format. Please notice the dates for this year. The AA tournament is in July as well as the A and then the overall in August.

Men's and Women's Class AA Tournament
Churches 500 and above in Sunday School Enrollment
July 12-13

Men's and Women's Class A Tournament
Churches below 500 in Sunday School Enrollment
July 26-27

Men's Overall Championship
Top 12 Teams from each tournament
August 9-10

Jackson City Softball Fields, South Drive, Jackson

Contact Wes Pegues in the Discipleship & Family Ministry Dept. of the MBCB at 1-800-748-1651 for more information.

HOUSE TOPS

Just for the Record

First Church, Pearl, will sponsor a Silly Supper for Rankin County area single-adults at 6:30 p.m. on April 20. Cost is \$3. For reservations call (601) 939-4476.

Promise Keepers Wake Up Call of Celebration and Prayer Conference will be held at New Orleans Seminary's Leavell Chapel,

April 20 at 10 a.m. For more information, call (504) 367-4049 or (800) NOBTS-01, ext. 3260.

First Church, Hattiesburg, will present Cindy Morgan in concert with guest Michael O'Brien on May 8 at 7:30 p.m. Allen Loving is First Church minister of youth. Call (601) 544-0100 for more information.

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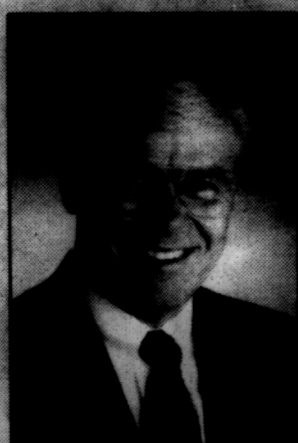
Medicare Supplement under age 65

Call today for free information:

E.F. Hutton Insurance Marketing
111 Lakeshore Dr. #J-202, Brandon, MS 39042
1-800-880-2305

RaphaCare

Helping Meet Your Church's Counseling Needs



Dr. Jim Henry, President of the Southern Baptist Convention, recommends RaphaCare — a comprehensive church program to help meet emotional, relational and spiritual needs of hurting individuals.

"Rapha has been the answer for many of us who have prayed for a Christ-centered, Bible-oriented counseling ministry. I've found

the Rapha family to be one that is personal and marked with integrity. They have been a willing resource every time we have called or referred others to their compassionate care."

Hundreds of Southern Baptist churches have registered for the RaphaCare program allowing a special cost savings to individuals with limited financial resources. Call 1-800-257-2744 for additional information regarding RaphaCare.

Rapha

Clinically Professional. Distinctively Christian.

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Thursday, April 18, 1996

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Revival Dates

High Hill (Neshoba): April 19-21; Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Bill Hudson, Crystal Springs, evangelist; Welton Madden, music; Ray Files, pastor.

Noxapater, Noxapater: April 28-May 1; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:15 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, Little Rock, evangelist; David Sumner, music; Wayne Sanders, pastor.

Oak Grove, Smithdale (Mississippi): April 19-21; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mark Wicker, Liberty, evangelist; Cletus Moak, pastor.

Antioch (Holmes): April 21-24; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Malcolm Massey, Brookhaven, evangelist; Nancy Spell, music; Riley Ainsworth, pastor.

First, Winona: April 21-24;

Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon, lunch, and 7 p.m. nightly; Ron Phillips, evangelist; Fred Guilbert, music; Johnny Walker, pastor.

Concord, Yazoo City: April 21-24; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Steve Jackson, Pearl, evangelist; Henry Kirk, Yazoo City, music; James Garner, pastor.

First, Crystal Springs: April 21-24; 7 p.m.; Jim Futral, Jackson, evangelist; Tommy and Carol Joy Sparkman, Clinton, music; Joel E. Haire, pastor.

New Hope (Oktibbeha) April 21-26, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Gary Jackson,

evangelist; Archie Chesser, music; Bob Brandon, pastor.

Mountain Creek, Florence: April 21-24; Sunday, all-day singing begins 9:30 a.m., covered dish lunch; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Cliff Nelson, evangelist; Rodney Sims, music; Jesse Owen, pastor.

Beulah, Decatur (Newton): April 21-24; Sunday, 10:50 a.m., noon meal, and 6:50 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; David Grumbach, Bailey, evangelist; Jeff Hardy, Newton, Justin, Sharp, Sebastopol, music; Byron Howell, pastor.

Temple, Big Point: April 28-May 1; Frank Gunn, Biloxi, evangelist; Phillip Price, Wade Church, music.

Names in the News

BROWNWOOD, Texas (BP) — **Tupelo native John Allen Moore**, an architect of post-World War II Southern Baptist mission work in Europe, died April 5. He was 83. During his 40-year career as a Foreign Mission Board (FMB) missionary, Moore helped establish seminaries in Yugoslavia and Switzerland and started the European Baptist Press Service. He built

inroads into newly communist Eastern Europe and, for seven years, worked as FMB field representative throughout Europe. Moore was appointed in 1938 as the first Southern Baptist missionary to Yugoslavia. Besides his wife, the former Pauline Willingham of Macon, Ga., survivors include a daughter, Marilyn Moore, and son Edward.

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — **Robert S. Denny**, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance from 1968-80, who played a significant role in defending religious freedom during the communist totalitarianism of Eastern Europe, died April 5 at the Quality Home Care, Orlando, Fla. Denny, 81, had suffered for the past two years from Alzheimer's disease. He is survived by his wife Jane.

Franklin Graham of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, will conduct an area wide crusade at the Tupelo Coliseum April 20-23, 1997. Crusade plans were announced by Harry Martin, crusade executive chair and president of the Community Development Foundation of Tupelo; and by Sherman Barnette, a crusade director for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. For more information, contact Carolyn Mauldin at (601) 844-0245.

CLASSIFIED ADS

RATE: 30 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count.

CASTLEWOODS BAPTIST, 175 Castlewoods, Brandon, MS 39042, seeking part-time youth minister resumes to above address.

BAPTISTRY/BATHTUB REPAIR. Porcelain or fiberglass. No job too large or small. Statewide service. No mileage charge. K&K Bathtub Repair, 1526 Gardner Blvd., Columbus, MS 39702; 1-800-349-2882.

CHOIR ROBES & accessories, pulpit/judicial robes, paraments. MURPHY ROBES/Mac's Robes, Charles McGlocklin, Authorized Dealer. Statewide 1-800-898-MACS.

MARANATHA BAPTIST Church, Mt. Olive, MS, (601) 733-2379, has church bus for sale. 29-passenger, new paint, seat belts, air conditioned, new motor w/ less than 5,000 miles. Excellent condition, low price. Sidney Davis, pastor.

ATTENTION! BI-VOCATIONAL ministers and music directors: Supplement your church income. Earn \$500-\$1,000 per week with American Protective. Leads furnished, no overnight travel or cash investment — We train you. Call (601) 582-9000 for confidential interview.

HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, Meridian. Design, Fabrication, Repair. MURPHY ROBE SALES. Call (601) 483-3171 or 1-800-368-2705.

BIVOCATIONAL YOUTH Director seeking area church paid position. Married, 37 years old, Wesley College student. Call Tom Allen (601) 932-8747.

WANTED — FIRST BAPTIST Church of Rose Hill is seeking part-time Minister of Music for Adult/Youth Choir. Send resume to Music Search Committee, Route #1, Box 135, Rose Hill, MS 39356.

LOVING, HAPPILY MARRIED, Christian couple wish to adopt and shower your baby with care, love, warmth, and joy. Med/Legal expenses paid. Legal & confidential. F/T Mom. Kirk & Rene 1-800-371-5726.

CALVINISTIC BAPTISTS — Meet others at Mississippi Baptist Grace Fellowship. April 27. Brookhaven. (601) 833-6659/833-1135.

PASSENGER VANS FOR private and church groups. From \$54.95 per day/limited free miles/ 7- to 15-seat. Auto & Truck Rental, Jackson (601) 948-3391. Since 1965.

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Uniform The good shepherd



By David Mitchell
John 10

In John 10, Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God claims to be the "door." Doors come in all shapes and sizes and are used for many different purposes. Doors are used to enter homes and automobiles. They are used on refrigerators to keep the cold in and the hot out. Doors are used on closets and cabinets to hide the clutter behind them. We do not live a day of our life without using many doors. Jesus took a common, earthly concept like a door and used it to teach a divine lesson related to salvation and the abundant life.

The door (vv. 1-9). The parable of the good shepherd was easily understood by the contemporaries of Jesus. For us, it is better understood if we keep in mind the Old Testament text of Ezekiel 34, Isaiah 56:9-12, as well as the 23rd Psalm. The sheep pen was a concept that was familiar to the Judean area. Its purpose was to contain the sheep and keep them safe from thieves or predators. Normally the pen was constructed of rocks or limbs or often a cave was utilized. Jesus began the parable by making the obvious statement that it would be easy for the shepherd to enter the sheep pen, but the thief and the robber would be unwelcome and have to find other means of entering. In the first five verses Jesus explained that the voice of God which comes to a sinner is the door that when opened leads to heaven. Once inside the door the "sheep" which belong to God know his voice and he knows theirs, and there is easy communication as well as fellowship with each other. Those who were listening to Jesus did not understand his parable (v. 6), so he gave an interpretation.

The knower (vv. 10-15). This grouping of verses explains clearly that Jesus has a direct knowledge of every person who has trusted Christ as well as an intimate knowledge of the Father. Verse 10 tells us that Jesus came to this earth so that he might know and understand all of the trials and temptations that we experience. Because he lived victoriously without sin through the human experience and because he is resurrected, he offers "abundant life" to all who will trust him as savior. Jesus said he knew the cost of redeeming the sheep (v. 11) and was completely willing to pay it, even at the cost of his own life.

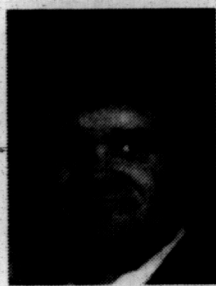
The contrast in verses 12 and 13 is between the good shepherd who knowingly risked his life for the sheep and the day laborer who is only interested in his wages. The day laborer does not have the pride of the possession of the sheep nor is he interested in anything other than saving his own life. He does not have a personal concern for the sheep. The good shepherd knows his sheep individually and personally. He knows them and they know him just as he is known by the Father and has a special knowledge of the Father.

The goer (vv. 16-18). Jesus had other sheep (v. 16) which were not of this fold that he must go and bring into the flock. This verse clearly indicates that Jesus will reach out to the Gentiles and to the ends of the earth in order that he might bring all of humanity under the all-encompassing love of Christianity. The prediction of Jesus' death is found in verse 17. Jesus said he was going to die but that he would take up his life again. He also said that he was going to the Father and that it was from the Father that he had received authority to lay down his life, as well as take it up again.

Although the analogy of the shepherd is one that is somewhat removed from our society, the application is modern. Jesus has promised that he has offered his life so that we might find the door to salvation. From this side of the resurrection we should gain strength and confidence in seeing the prediction of Jesus that he would lay down his life voluntarily and then take it up again. Because Jesus was without question decisively following God's will when he willingly laid down his life, we should decide on actions that we can take to follow Jesus more closely as our Good Shepherd. When we do so, we will be affirming the teachings of this passage of scripture. The point of the text is clear: Jesus is the "door" to eternal and abundant life and the "door" is open for all who are willing to enter.

Mitchell is pastor of Van Winkle Church, Jackson.

Bible Book God punishes, protects



By Clayton Littlejohn
Nahum 1-3

The book of Nahum gives us God's announcement of judgment against Nineveh, and teaches that God will punish evil and provide lasting protection for his people.

Nineveh, the capital city of Assyria, had experienced revival when Jonah preached there about a century earlier. Now, this new generation of Ninevites had forgotten or forsaken God, and was as inhumane as their forefathers were when Jonah went there. God had had enough of their barbaric ways and foretold their coming judgment. As a nation, we must never let ourselves become modern-day Ninevites.

Avenging judge (1:1-3a). Nahum wrote down this vision from the Lord — rather than proclaim it — so it could be passed around. No one is certain of the exact date of this book, but it's somewhere between 612 B.C. — when the Babylonians destroyed Nineveh — and 664 — when "No." or Thebes, fell (3:8-10).

Nahum, which means "one who consoles," was under a heavy burden for the Jewish people who were being treated inhumanely, and for the imminent destruction of Nineveh. He began describing God, the Judge, in verses 2, 3: "God is jealous (red hot), revengeth (vengeance is the Lord's), furious, reserveth wrath for his enemies." This passage reveals God's holiness by his intolerance of sin. Yet, unlike most of us, "The Lord is slow to anger (allows time to repent) and great in power, and will not acquit the wicked." This verse means he had found the Ninevites guilty and must punish them.

Refuge and relentless pursuer (1:7-9). In verse 7, Nahum consoled the Jewish people by describing God's goodness, his protection (stronghold), and knowledge of those who trust him. God would be their refuge, and Nineveh's relentless pursuer. He would destroy Nineveh by way of a flood, which happened when the Tigris River flooded over and destroyed the city walls, allowing the Babylonians to march right in and take over.

It would be complete destruction of the city: "will make utter end..." (v. 8). God would not ever have to repent his judgment: "will make an utter end... not a second time" (v. 9).

Protection of his people (1:12-15). Here again Nahum consoled Judah by describing all God would do to Nineveh as not only its Judge, but also as Judah's protection. Nineveh was a huge city (v. 12), yet God would cut the city's inhabitants down like a mower cuts grass. God had used these people to punish Judah (Isa. 10:5-11), but it wouldn't happen again. He would set Judah free from the yoke and shackles of bondage (v. 13). He would protect his people by destroying all Ninevites: "No more children would be born, no more of thy name will be sown" (v. 14). God would kill their worthless religion: "I cut off the graven and Molten images"; then bring death to all: "I will make thy grave." One doesn't dig graves for the living. This would free Judah to go to the temple for worship and celebration, and have peace. The word peace in Hebrew is *shalom*, and means the people could be complete once again. They had been robbed of this peace. Now Judah's Protector gave it back.

Dread of his enemies (3:5-7). Not only would God destroy Nineveh, he would first humiliate them: "I will lift up your skirts over your face, I will show the nations thy nakedness, and the kingdoms thy shame" (3:5). This, along with more humiliation in verse 6, was a testimony to what God would do to any nation that imitated Nineveh. It would be so horrible that other nations wouldn't even go around the ruins of Nineveh (v. 7).

God has made no covenants with America, only with Israel, but God did say, "I will bless those that bless thee, and curse those that curse thee" (Gen. 12:3). Let's pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psa. 122:6) and pray for righteousness in America.

Littlejohn is pastor of Ingram Church, Baldwin.

Life and Work Your service is genuine



By Linda Donnell
1 Thessalonians 2-3

The program for Christianity has been described as: faith in Christ, fellowship with Christ, faithfulness to Christ, and fruitful for Christ. Being fruitful is a call to service. This is an area of difficulty for many Christians today. On the one hand we have those who seldom get beyond the church pew in this regard; on the other hand, we have those who become totally "burned out" from serving. The apostle Paul offers us an excellent model for some of the qualities to look for in service.

Selflessness (2:4-6a). Genuine service is always devoid of selfishness; it is selfless. Paul assured his readers that God had entrusted him with the gospel and he felt responsibility only to God (v. 4).

Service can be offered in the name of self or to the glory of God. When self teaches (or even preaches), sings in the choir, contributes money, or gives times to the Lord's work, it always has in mind how it will contribute to its own happiness or honor. There is always the temptation in offering service to others to seek prestige for oneself rather than for God. Paul was careful to avoid this. Early in the letter (1:5) he said, "Our gospel came to you," not "I came to you." The man was lost in his message.

In evaluating our service we might need to answer the penetrating questions posed by an unknown author:

"In every heart there is a sort of throne. Who sits on yours — Self or God? Can you pretend to love Christ without exerting yourself for the spiritual warfare of those for whom he died? Can you recall six times in your life that you ever denied yourself to the extent of real inconvenience for love of God?"

Gentleness (2:6b-9). Paul also served with gentleness: "Like a mother caring for her little children" (v. 7). Isn't this the way to win people? Sometimes it seems that we would prefer to rule over them with rigor. I am reminded of one of my mother's favorite sayings: "You can catch more flies with honey."

A mother, because of her love can bear with the forwardness in a child and the mean behavior that is sometime exhibited. Christ's ministers should behave toward people in like manner.

Concern (2:10-12). Paul further compared his ministry to the Thessalonians to that of a caring father who "encouraged, comforted and urged" them (vv. 11-12). He not only presided over the new believers in their infancy with gentleness, he encouraged and admonished them toward Christian maturity.

Real concern for people is the driving force behind Christian service. It is what will compel us to get off the pew and out into the world. Rosalin Beck puts it this way: "Concern for people would compel us to become personally involved in the lives of people we now avoid. It would compel us to give up many trivialities which now give us a false sense of being terribly busy with the Lord's affairs. It would drive us to active participation in community affairs, of which we may now be blissfully ignorant. It would force us to take a stand on issues where human values are involved."

Prayer (3:11-13). Finally, Paul demonstrated genuine service as he prayed for the new church to experience growth in love and strength to live holy lives. He asked God to increase their love for all people that it might overflow and enrich the lives of others.

Paul's life was God-centered; prayer being the main link to the Father. He prayed for guidance in the ordinary day-to-day problems of life and he prayed for others. We often wonder why the Christian life is difficult, when it may well be because we are trying to live it by ourselves. With God at the helm, we know where to go and what to do; and furthermore, he will give us the power to do it.

Genuine service should be selfless, gentle, prompted by concern, and mapped out with prayer. Which of these qualities do you need to work on in order to improve your service to Christ?

Donnell is a member of First Church, Hattiesburg.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further-honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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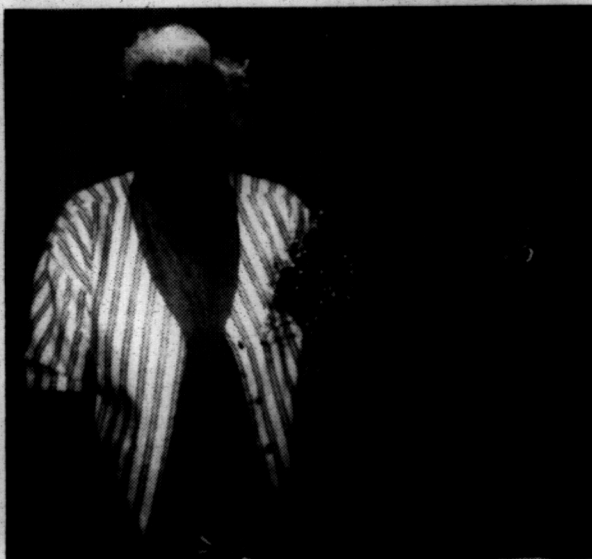
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(to be continued)



Child Care Workers receive 1-year service pins at a recent training meeting. From left are Tina Clyburn, Paul Clyburn, Jeanette Blackwell, Doris Ray and James Ray. Congratulations Guys!



The Baptist Children's Village recently honored Mrs. Mildred Turner's 80th birthday and her retirement after 14 years as Child Care Worker on our India Nunnery Campus. We will miss you, Mildred!



A beautiful Noah's Ark mural is a part of the face lift given to Hester Activities Building on The India Nunnery Campus. The lovely mural was hand painted in the game room by Nancy Lindsey, sister of Recreation Director, Jan Rowzee. What a special gift! Thanks Nancy.

Prof. Glenn Hinson prescribes prayer as antidote for anger

BATON ROUGE, La. (ABP) — When you get really, really angry, suggested Glenn Hinson, praying one of the imprecatory, or damning, psalms can be therapeutic.

People falsely think they have to put on a happy face when they pray, but God can handle people's anger, said Hinson, professor of spirituality and church history at Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond, Va. Trusting God with one's anger allows it to be transformed, he said.

"Let your anger off with God. Open up and let God do something with that anger that you can't do," advised Hinson, who led a spiritual-life conference at University Church in Baton Rouge, La., in March.

"We shouldn't bottle up our anger or let anger off on someone else. Sometimes the best thing you can do is go into your closet and curse."

One of Hinson's favorite such damning prayers, he said is Psalm 58:8: "Let them be like the snail that dissolves into slime."

Such prayers help remind us that revenge for any wrong ultimately belongs to God, Hinson said.

Giving God one's angry thoughts is one of the necessary steps to developing a relationship with God. Another step is to follow the advice from the 17th-century Carmelite lay brother and mystic, Lawrence of the Resurrection, who showed people how to "practice the presence of God" no matter what they were doing.

"Prayer is being attentive to God," Hinson said. "In order to love God, you have to get to know God."

Hinson, who said his experiences during the Great Depression make it difficult for him to accept gifts, admits that people don't always find it easy to accept God's gift of grace.

"Exposure to the storms of life cause us to pull our shutters closed," he said. "We have trouble accepting we are loved with an infinite love because we all have faults that deep down make it hard to accept ourselves."

But prayer can change that, he said. Opening up to God, even a small amount, will allow God's love to drive out fear so we can become "reborn inside."

"That love can drive out our insecurities. That love can create a deep-down inner security," he said.

"God is always trying to get our attention, to get this message to us, 'I love you with an infinite love.'"

This love energy, which is initiated by God and is "always pouring on us" is awe-inspiring, Hinson said.

"More than anything else, prayer is thankfulness that the God of 150 billion galaxies wants to be in communication with us," he said.

"Faith begins in awe, in wonder. It is only God's initiative that allows us to even think about communicating with God."

God sends us love messages through nature, science, history, and our own lives, Hinson said. Listening to your own life will provide a glimpse of God at work, he said. Four necessary components of listening, he said, are to be vulnerable, accepting, constant, and hopeful.

When listening to others, it's important to realize that God is also present in the conversation, he said. "We may be able to listen to the other person or ourselves into the presence of the eternal Listener."

He said people should become like children and use their imaginations to "enter into the story."

A deepening, intimate relationship with God will lead us to pray for others "out of deep concern." Prayers of one who is intimate with God will have "great power," he said, paraphrasing James 5:16.

One of the dangers to an effective prayer life is the presence of a "distracting culture" that leads us to "get caught up in the treadmill of activity," he said.

To participate in "a listening that goes beyond hearing and a seeing that goes beyond looking," Hinson suggested spending time with hurting people as well as time in solitude and silence.

"By seeing the hurt of others we may become tenderized," he said. But uninterrupted exposure to such pain is impossible, he said.

"Each of us needs a daily retreat," he said. He suggested allotting 20 minutes twice a day for centering one's life. "Find a place of solitude and just show up."

Hinson uses a 45-minute walk each day to center himself. The goal is "to be present where I am," he said. "It's so easy to edge God out," Hinson said, recommending that structuring time with God is important.

"You can't manufacture an inner peace. Only God can give you that. But everything else falls into place when we make God our first priority," he said.

Relationships with other people near and far, as well as the world itself, will change as we become detached from things, "free from any longing for them," he said.

Ironically, once God has detached us from the world by showing us that God's grace is sufficient, God reattaches us, causing us to share what we have with others, he said.

"We want everything we are doing to be informed and transformed by the quiet communion we carry on with God, so that we can learn how to live the lives we are given by grace," he said.

J.D. Lundy, minister, dies at home in Greenville at age 82

J.D. Lundy, 82, died April 11 of heart failure at his home in Greenville. Services were held April 14 in Greenville. A native of Neshoba County, the former minister most recently served as education director at Calvary Church, Greenville.

In Mississippi he served as pastor of churches in Jones, Perry, Jackson, and George counties. He also served as director of missions for Marion, Walthall, Lawrence,



Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

LifeAnswers

The following letter was received in response to the April 4 LifeAnswers column regarding the demands of caring for an elderly parent. This is sound wisdom for people who find themselves in this situation.

Caring for an elderly parent can be a blessing. I know, because I did it eight months out of every year for 22 years, while my four siblings cared for (our mother) the other four months annually.

I praise the Lord for the privilege! Accept this task as from the Lord. Thank him for it. Ask him for grace and strength for each day.

Confess as sin the resentment you feel (for) having to care for her (Phil 2:14). Memorize 1 Peter.

When sleep is disturbed, use

the time to quote verses and relax even if you cannot sleep. Reassure her that God knows your needs and will not leave you — if you are his child. Read through the Bible with her. Tune in to a Christian radio station or talk show.

If she is not mentally alert, tell her repeatedly that you love her. Sing to her. Always carry a smile into her room.

Thank her for caring for you when you were small. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

If you can't get the victory, read **Lord, Change Me** by Evelyn Christenson (Evelyn Christenson Ministries, 4266 Brigadoon Dr., St. Paul, MN 55126).

My husband was wonderful all through the years and our children learned to be kind, considerate, and loving. I praise the Lord for teaching me how to grow spiritually.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Aerobics instructor seminar slated for May 18 in Jackson

First Church, Jackson will host the Family Fit Tour '96, an Aerobics Christian Aerobic Resource seminar, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on May 18 at the

church's Family Life Center.

The seminar will provide training and continuing education credits for exercise instructors, and will include choreography for step aerobics and strength.

Pre-registration will earn early-bird discounts and free shoes from Reebok, a free 75-minute video, and a number of other free items.

Sessions scheduled for the seminar include:

- Steppin' with Spirit.
- Mid-Tempo Aerobics: Today's Workout of Choice.
- Reaching and Keeping the Inactive Client.
- Become a "Jump Start" Trainer.

To pre-register and for more information, contact Pat Lowery toll-free at (800) 650-9908.

Bibliocipher

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RP EQFN AFHJ BK EQF GPPX BK EQF WHS PO CPI
JBREBKZEWN, HKI CHLF EQF RFKRF, HKJ ZHDFJ
EQFU EP DKJFAREHKI EQF AFHJBKC.

KFQFUBHQ FBCQE: FBCQE

This week's clue: F equals E.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Eight: Ten.

National Day of Prayer events set for May 2

The 1996 observance of the National Day of Prayer in Mississippi will be held on Thursday, May 2, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the south steps of the New Capitol in downtown Jackson, according to Mississippi National Day of Prayer coordinator Wanda Kay Wigley of Raymond.

"Goy, Kirk Fordice and Mrs. Pat Fordice, along with other officials, clergy, and laypeople, will be there in prayer... glorifying God and thanking him for a State of prayer," Wigley said.

A similar National Day of Prayer county observance will be held May 2 at 12 noon in front of the Hinds County Courthouse in Raymond, and a city observance will be held at Jackson City Hall at 3 p.m. on the same day.

Several other counties and cities across Mississippi will also host observances, Wigley added.

For more information on events around the state, contact Wigley at P.O. Box 198, Raymond, MS 39154. Telephone: (601) 857-5688.

Baptist Record

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